

Ashfield Conservation Commission
August 26, 2015

Members Present:

Janet Clark (JC), Lester Garvin, Chair (LG), Phil Lussier (PL), Brian Clark (BC)

Others Present:

Adam Bright

Members Absent:

Anne Madocks

1. LG called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Minutes from August 12th meeting were reviewed. BC moved to accept; JC seconded; accepted as submitted.
3. We discussed the provision to allow us to hire consultants as per Section 53G, which is attached. LG met with the Ashfield Town Administrator and showed him the law. Although this is a simple option for Conservation Commissions to establish at a Commission meeting, it needs to be on the town warrant in order to create an official account to hold such funds. The Town Administrator said that this can be accomplished sometime in the fall for Special Town Meeting to create a revolving fund. Town counsel also needs to see it. PL read from the Conservation Commissioner's Handbook (20.1.3) that the Commission can adopt the rule in a regular meeting, but 19.15 indicates a need for a town vote.
4. We considered the Warwick letter (attached) to the Secretary of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, dated August 25, 2015 and forwarded to Massachusetts Conservation Commissions by Dr. Gregory Brodski, Conservation commission Co-Chairman of the Town of Warwick, MA. We noted that it was a detailed letter, spelling out resource issues relevant to the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being created for the proposed Northeast Direct natural gas pipeline project. LG noted compressor stations are important. JC suggests signing on to the careful and strong letter. PL said there is less need to be involved until state laws involved, and noted that any message from our Commission to the federal agency needs to be sent from or in cooperation with our Board of Selectmen. He reminded us of the advice from Mark Stinson that Commissions can depend on the environmental agencies involved to effectively comment on the EIS scope.
5. The hearing tonight for the project by Stacy Kline was opened at 8:00PM. Adam Bright was present for the contractor, Ray Gray. The project will demolish and remove the Cordeli barn, which is near the South River. The equipment used will be located in the adjacent parking area on pavement rather than on any dirt or grass, and debris immediately loaded for transport. The board recommended siltation barriers, and the DOA will be signed. PL motion to close hearing, BC seconded.
6. PL move to adjourn and BC seconded; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Clark

